

REMARKS***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 23 will have been amended and claims 4, 5, 7, and 18 – 21 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants expressly reserve the right to refile the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications. Accordingly, claims 1 – 3, 6, 8 – 10, 12 – 17, and 22 – 25 currently remain pending.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has indicated claims 14 and 22 are allowed and claims 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if presented in independent forms that include the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Examiner has also objected to the drawings for failing to show all of the recited features of the invention and has rejected claims 1 – 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 – 21, and 23 – 25 over the art of record. By the present amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Amendment is Proper for Entry

Applicants note, as the instant amendment merely presents an objected claim (i.e., claim 7) in independent and allowable form, as amended independent claim 1, and amends a dependent claim (i.e., claim 23) to depend from allowed claim 22, no question of new matter nor any new issues for consideration requiring further search is raised in entering the instant amendment. Amendments to other claims have been

made to address formalities resulting from the above-amendments.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and confirmation of allowance of the instant application and pending claims is herewith requested.

Acknowledgment of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability for claims 14 and 22. Applicants further acknowledge the indication claims 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if presented in independent forms that include the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, claim 7 has been presented in independent and allowable form. Accordingly, an indication by the Examiner independent claim 7, and claim 8 that depends therefrom, are allowed is respectfully requested.

Traversal of Objection to the Drawings

Applicants traverse the current objection to the drawings. The Examiner asserts the drawings do not show the adjustment of end positions of the predetermined longitudinal axial displacement (before and after adjustment).

As Applicant has pointed out in previous responses to the Examiner, each of Figures 1 – 5 show various arrangements of the wobble plates exhibiting various adjusted end positions of the predetermined longitudinal axial displacement.

As perhaps best illustrated for this discussion, Figure 3 depicts wobble plate 17.1 arranged in a vertical orientation and wobble plate 17.2 in an oblique or angled orientation. The axially innermost and outermost extents of the respective wobble plates relative to the drum define the end positions of the predetermined longitudinal axial displacement. By way of example, for the vertically oriented wobble plate 17.1,

the innermost and outermost extents are the same, such that the no longitudinal axial displacement occurs during rotation of the drum, whereas, for the obliquely oriented wobble plate 17.2, the innermost and outermost extents define the end positions of the longitudinal axial displacement the same as the drum is rotated. Thus, by changing the oblique orientation of a wobble plate the end points of the longitudinal axial displacement are correspondingly changed.

Moreover, Applicants note Figure 6 clearly and unambiguously shows a rotation of the drum having two obliquely oriented wobble plates, such that the predetermined longitudinal axial displacement occurs through rotation of the drum as a result of the arrangement of the wobble plates.

Moreover, the specification clearly and unambiguously explains the operation depicted in the Figures, such that one ordinarily skilled in the art would readily understand adjustment of end positions of the predetermined longitudinal axial displacement is illustrated in drawings, as originally submitted.

As the subject matter noted by the Examiner is in fact shown in the drawings, Applicants submit the objection is moot and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner confirm the acceptance of the drawings in the next official communication.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is Moot

While Applicants do not acquiesce the claims, as presented prior to the instant response, were unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the applied art of record, in an effort to advance prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now canceled claim 7, as well as the subject matter of

intermediate claims 4 and 5, also now canceled. Further, by the present amendment, claims 18 – 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, however, Applicants have expressly reserved the right to refile the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuing applications. Further, claim 23 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 22, thereby rendering claims 23 – 25 allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 – 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 – 21, and 23 – 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and indicate that all pending claims, claims 1 – 3, 6, 8 – 10, 12 – 17, and 22 – 25, are allowable.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

The undersigned authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner=s Amendment, to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089 in order to maintain pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

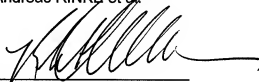
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 1 – 3, 6, 8 – 10, 12 – 17, and 22 –

25. The claims have been amended to eliminate any arguable basis for objection or rejection based upon formal or informal matters. In addition, the applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
Andreas RINKE et al.



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

April 2, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191